

MEDICAL DIRECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

July 15, 2004

Members Present

Bethany Cummings, D.O.
Asher Brand, M.D.
George Lindbeck, M.D.
Sabina Braithwaite, M.D.
John Rawls, M.D.
Stewart Martin, M.D.
Kimberly Mitchell, M.D.
James Dudley, M.D.
William Hauda, M.D.
Dave Garth, M.D.

Others Present

Joseph Ornato, M.D.
Rao Ivatury, M.D.
George Brown
Sturgis Kidder
Harinder Dhindsa
Judy Katzen

Staff Present

Tom Nevetral
Warren Short
Chad Blosser
Scott Winston
Steve Puckett
Michael Berg
Tim Kimble

Item 1): Stewart Martin, M.D. (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM in the conference room at the Office of EMS.

Item 2): Those present were asked to introduce themselves.

Item 3): Motion by Sabina Braithwaite, M.D. and seconded by Bethany Cummings, D.O. to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2004 meeting as written... Motion passed.

Item 4): Sturgis Kidder of Revivant Corporation was on hand to demonstrate the Auto Pulse chest vest (mechanical CPR device).

Item 5): Rao Ivatury, M.D. Director of Trauma/Critical Care at VCU Health Systems was on hand along with Harinder Dhindsa and Judy Katzen to share information on the pilot Polyheme study that is to be done at Richmond Ambulance Authority over the next Twelve months. "Polyheme is the only blood substitute that has been rapidly and Safely infused in clinical trials in sufficiently massive quantities to be useful in the treatment of large volume blood loss". It was also noted that Norfolk may be doing a similar study in the very near future. **Motion by John Rawls, M.D. and seconded by Sabina Braithwaite, M.D. in support of the field study on the use of Polyheme...motion passed.**

Item 6): George Lindbeck, M.D. presented a DRAFT *Position Paper on Epinephrine Use by Pre-hospital Providers*. The Medical Direction Committee was pleased with the sub-committee's work on the paper but asked that a Training Module be added to the paper to provide a uniform educational component for training EMT-Basics. It was also noted that EMT-Basics will be allowed to carry the epinephrine outside of their specific duties with the EMS agency.

Item 7): Warren Short gave an update on the delivery times and training sessions for the Intermediate and Paramedic Accredited Training Sites that will be receiving the equipment loan of the SimMan Patient Simulator.

Item 8): The committee will work to determine the minimum specifications for the Difficult Airway Management Manikin for the minimum criteria recommended to meet the

educational needs for ALS programs at the next meeting.

- Item 9): Warren Short advised the committee that staff was updating the *EMS Training Programs Administration Manual* and it will be disseminated to committee members electronically for their input.
- Item 10): The *EMS Specialty Procedures and Medication Schedules* were approved and they will be presented at the next Governor's Advisory Board meeting as an action item.
- Item 11): Steve Puckett advised that the Office was progressing on a program that will provide feedback to providers and instructors on EMT-Basic testing criteria.
- Item 12): Steve Puckett highlighted some of the written comments from the High School EMT Program via Distance Education Pilot that was held in Southwest Virginia. It was summarized that the program was worth pursuing, however instructors and facilitators must be good teachers and zealous advocates of the program. Students must have the desire to take the course and want to become good EMTs. School systems must be willing to support the program financially and ensure quality in all areas.

It was also noted that Office staff will draw up guidelines for future distance education EMT programs.

- Item 13): Chad Blosser reported on the addition of two new Intermediate '99 accredited programs: Central Virginia Community College – Lynchburg and UVA Prehospital Program in Charlottesville. Chad also reported on the allocation of ALS Training Funds to date.
- Item 14): Warren Short reported on the progress of Web Based Education and reported that HealthStreams was working with the Office to test some web based training that will occur by the end of August. Once the test proves successful the web based education will be piloted to ensure that there are not issues with the program before it is offered to all providers.

Warren also advised all OMDs to update their personal information on forms that are available from Michael Berg including their birth date (month and day) so that OMD and PCD certificates can be printed.

- Item 15): All EMS agencies, EMT Instructors and ALS-Coordinators were sent notifications that the 2004 legislation requires EMS providers to report elderly abuse. There will be an EMSAT program in September dedicated to the new reporting requirement.

The JLARC report which is reviewing trauma care and the EMS system should be finalized and published by early November 2004.

- Item 16): The committee was reminded to comment on the State Five Year Strategic Plan as of this date two comments have been received from committee members. It was noted that the plan requires "active physician involvement was paramount" in the Medical Direction section. It was also noted that "liability crisis concerns" was a discussion point in the plan.

Item 17): Warren Short advised the committee that staff was still reviewing the options for an EMT-Basic Pilot Program that would utilize a competency based format or a static skill based format.

Item 18): Old Business – none

Item 19): New Business

- a. The National EMS Scope of Practice Model – George Lindbeck, M.D. suggested that the committee formulate a letter in protest of the change in the recommended levels as outlined in the document. George Lindbeck, M.D. will draft a letter for the committee to review at the next meeting.
- b. The committee was informed of an OMD versus Corporation issue in the Peninsulas EMS Region.
- c. Bethany Cummings, D.O. has been appointed as Chairperson for the National Association of EMS Physicians Rural Affairs Committee.
- d. The committee was made aware of continued issues involving volunteer coverage in rural areas across Virginia.

Item 21): Public Comment - none

Meeting Adjourned at 1:50 PM

NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2004 at the Office of EMS at 10:30 AM